

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 /080 W
-----053855 230937Z /10

R 230728Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9118
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, IS, JO
SUBJ: ISRAELI ATTITUDES TOWARD WEST BANK MAYORS

1. MAYOR MULHIM OF HALHUL (RECENTLY RETURNED FROM
IV PROGRAM IN U.S.) TOLD CONGEN OFFICERS JUNE 22
THAT ISRAELIS HAVE INVITED NUMBER OF WEST BANK
NOTABLES INCLUDING HIKMAT AND ZAFIR AL-MASRI
FROM NABLUS TO ATTEND CEREMONIES IN TEL AVIV
MARKING BEGIN TEAM TAKE-OVER IN MINISTRY OF
DEFENSE (MINISTRY CHARGED WITH ADMINISTERING
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES). MULHIM NOTED THAT GOI
HAS MADE POINT OF NOT INVITING MAYORS OF MAJOR WEST BANK
TOWNS TO CEREMONIES AND HE SEES THIS AS INDICATION
THAT NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO TRY
TO RESTRICT ROLE OF MAYORS. (ISRAELI RADIO JUNE 23
REPORTED THAT NABLUS NOTABLES DID NOT APPEAR
AT CEREMONY AND CONFIRMED THAT NABLUS MAYOR NOT
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INVITED.)

2. IN ANOTHER RECENT INCIDENT, MULHIM SAYS THAT
SEVERAL WEST BANK MAYORS (INCLUDING QAWASIMA,
KHALAF, TAWIL, AND HIMSELF) HAD BEEN ASKED BY
LOCAL OFFICIALS TO HELP RESOLVE FEUD IN QABITIYAH
NEAR JENIN. ISRAELIS PREVENTED MAYORS FROM

GOING TO QABATIYAH AND FROM EXERCISING "GOOD
OFFICES" ROLE ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE "A
POLITICAL ACT."

3. MULHIM BELIEVES IT UNFORTUNATE THAT WEST BANK
MAYORS, WHO WERE ELECTED TO OFFICE IN POPULAR
ELECTIONS HELD UNDER ISRAELI SUPERVISION, ARE NOT
APPARENTLY TO BE CONSIDERED "INTERLOCUTORS VALABLES"
FOR ISRAELIS. HE REGRETS WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE
ISRAELI MISREADING OF WEST BANK POLITICAL SITUATION
WHERE MAYORS REFLECT TRUE ASPIRATIONS AND DESIRES
OF WEST BANKERS AND, MULHIM CLAIMS, WOULD REPRESENT
MODERATE PALESTINIAN POSITION. EVEN KHALAF OF
RAMALLAH HAS TAKEN MORE REASONABLE AND PRAGMATIC
ATTITUDE RECENTLY ACCORDING TO MULHIM. WITHIN NEXT
WEEK OR TWO, MULHIM SAYS THAT HE WILL INVITE WEST BANK
MAYORS TO GET TOGETHER FOR FURTHER TALKS.

4. COMMENT: MULHIM WAS VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED
WITH HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE U.S. AND PLEASED WITH
HIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND TALK WITH U.S. OFFICIALS.
HE HAS REFLECTED THESE FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS TO
OTHER WEST BANKERS. WHILE IN THE U.S. HE TELLS
US HE ARGUED WITH REJECTIONISTS INCLUDING LIBYAN
DCM. HIS VIEWS ON ISRAELI ATTITUDES TOWARD WEST
BANK MAYORS WERE SPOKEN MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WEST BANK, MAYOR, PALESTINIANS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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